

Watchmen Voter Guide for United States Senator

** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

	Scott Oh Cleveland	Mike Crapo	Ray J. Writz	David Roth	Idaho Sierra Law
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Scott Oh Cleveland – United States Senate- Our country is being destroyed by careen politicians.	<p>Mike Crapo; running for U.S. Senate I have been in the fight for our future and our freedoms and want to stay in this fight. This is not the time for me or any red-blooded Republican to watch from the sidelines. Our Constitution is under attack; current Congressional and presidential leadership have put it under constant assault, and we must be vigilant in protecting it. The Constitutional system of government that underlies our republic is of the utmost importance. That is why I am running to be reelected to the United States Senate, representing Idaho principles and values.</p> <p>My conservative record is widely known and includes recognition from the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Conservative Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 91 % Lifetime rating ■ Award for Conservative Excellence • National Right-to-Life: 100% • Gun Owners of America: A rating • NRA: A+ rating • Family Research Council: True Blue Award, 96% • Citizens Against Government Waste: Taxpayer Hero, 90% • NFIB (small business): Guardian of Small Business, 91% rating 	<p>Raymond J. Writz and I'm running for U.S. Senate against Mike Crapo.</p> <p>To give voters another choice to vote for more honest Gov't and vote Integrity.</p>	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
2. What is the proper role of the federal government in the economy?	Not to choose winner & losers based on party.	<p>First and foremost, government should protect our freedoms and our republic as outlined in our sacred Constitution. Since the beginnings of the Republican Party in the mid-1850s, its underlying principles have recognized the God-given blessings of liberty, freedom and opportunity, which lead to prosperity for individuals, communities, states and nations. Government should secure our borders and limit immigration to only those who follow our traditional process for securing legal entry. The U.S. federal government is responsible for providing for the national defense of the nation as a whole and the federal highway system.</p> <p>Regarding its proper role in the economy, the federal government should facilitate a free market economy, not hinder it or stifle innovation with taxes and out-of-control spending. The proper role of government should be limited in its scope on regulation, spending and taxation. A robust private sector, not more government spending, creates real economic</p>	<p>To provide for common defense, honest justice system, sound money and a level commercial trade between the states.</p>	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

		opportunity for families and small businesses in Idaho to develop and create their own American dream.			
3. When do you believe life begins and how does this belief affect the legislation you support?	Life begins at conception – I a prolife. And support the repeal of roe vs. wade.	Life is a precious gift from God, and it starts at conception. Our devotion to fostering respect for human life from the moment of conception to natural death will benefit generations to come. As we educate our children about the dangers of abortion, we must also reach out to women who are pregnant and in need of help. Educating people on adoption and other support options can bring hope at what can seem like a desperate time. I am strongly committed to protecting the rights of the unborn. I shaped my position by the conviction that abortion is wrong and should be limited to when the mother’s life is in imminent danger. In the 117th Congress, I will continue to advance policies that provide help to expectant mothers and preserve the right to life.	At conception. I would vote against taxpayer support for abortion and all other legislation that supports abortion.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
4. Should the government fund Planned Parenthood?	NEVER!!	No, Planned Parenthood should not be funded in any way by federal dollars, given that the majority of its operations are focused on abortion services.	No	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
5. How would you reduce the Federal deficit?	<u>NEVER</u> vote for <u>ANYTHING</u> that continues to increase our national debt.	If re-elected and Republicans take control of the Senate, I would chair the powerful Senate Finance Committee. Not only does the Committee oversee all federal revenue and tax policies, but it also has jurisdiction over health care entitlement programs (Medicare, Medicaid, CHIPS, Obamacare), which account for about two-thirds of the federal government spending. Much of the spending on these programs is on ever-increasing autopilot. These together make them the most significant part of our national fiscal crisis. This will put me in the position to lead on reforming not only our tax code to make our economy more competitive, but also controlling our entitlement spending. I am also a current sponsor or co-sponsor of several measures to help rein in our spending, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring the President and Congress to enact annual balanced budgets and restrict federal spending to 18 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. • The Zero Based Budget Act (S. 2463), which would cut wasteful spending and reduce U.S. debt by requiring government agencies to justify their spending levels every six years with a zero-based budget and propose a reduction in expenditures by two percent. 	Cut. The useless spending on non-essential departments.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

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<p>6. Do Americans pay too much, too little or just the right amount on Federal taxes? Would you change anything?</p>	<p>American pay way too much in taxes – Yes lower taxes for <u>ALL</u> taxpayers</p>	<p>We need to reduce taxes further and stop the massive tax increases proposed by the Biden Administration. One of my underlying goals when I first came to Congress was to find ways to revise our tax code so that hardworking Idahoans could have more of their paychecks in their pockets rather than with the federal government. Our tax code has been more unfair, more complex, more costly to comply with and more anti-competitive for American businesses than any previous tax code. Consumers end up paying for such a tax code because businesses often pass those costs along to their clients. Throughout my service on the Simpson-Bowles Commission and the Senate Finance Committee, I consistently pushed for comprehensive reform of our tax code that would address all of these issues.</p> <p>Tax reform as been one of my highest priorities and I was part of crafting one of the most comprehensive reforms of our tax code, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017. It provided tax relief across the board, but specifically to individuals and small businesses. TCJA lowered individual tax rates, nearly doubled the standard deduction, and doubled the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. According to the Congressional Budget Office, three out of every four dollars in tax cuts went directly to individuals.</p> <p>Due to the TCJA, six million of the most vulnerable taxpayers saw their tax burden drop to zero. The TCJA gives Americans access to higher wages and greater job opportunities along with a more vibrant economy, resulting in greater dynamic revenue generation to reduce the deficit and improve our nation’s fiscal standing. The strong, pro-growth fiscal policies in the TCJA resulted in strong economic growth, which was derailed by the Biden/Schumer/Pelosi policies that are now in place.</p> <p>The TCJA reflected our goal of delivering meaningful, pro-growth tax reform. It was the product of years of bipartisan committee hearings, meetings, working groups, and other input from taxpayers across the county. It is important to recognize that the Biden/Schumer/Pelosi agenda is to repeal much, if not all, of the TCJA. I am committed to continue the fight to preserve TCJA while continuing my efforts to reduce taxes further, continue work to simplify the tax code, create jobs and help Idahoans save for retirement.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>

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7. Should the Federal minimum wage be raised?	Not in my opinion.	I oppose raising the federal minimum wage. Federal wage and price controls do not work. It is imperative we do what we can to create opportunities for employment and wage growth for our nation’s workers. However, increasing the federal minimum wage would force our small businesses to cut jobs and reduce or stop new job growth. Because of this, any improvement in the standard of living from and increased wage would be more than offset by increased unemployment.	No, let the free market decide wages.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
8. Should the Federal government do anything to support the value of the dollar on the world market? Why or why not?	No - Stop printing money. This is creating hyperinflation.	The federal government can best support the value of the dollar by first enacting policies that encourage a strong economy as the U.S. dollar is a dominant form of currency in the global market. Building a sound economy with strong federal policies will keep our American businesses competitive around the world, particularly as they face Russia, China and other bad actors in this economic space. This can be through economic practices and policies or through financial sanctions when foreign nations behave in bad faith. Thirdly, reducing the national debt will also impact the value of our currency.	Yes to maintain the value by backing it with precious metals	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
9. Have you signed a “no new tax” pledge? Why or why not?	I’m not familiar with this pledge.	Yes. I have consistently opposed tax increases and new taxes. I have worked tirelessly on tax reduction and tax reform and am committed to my effort to keep Idahoans and Americans from paying more in taxes and, in fact, reduce their tax burdens.	No, have not received it yet.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
10. Have you signed the Manhattan Declaration (which defines marriage as between one man and one woman) or the Families First pledge? Why or why not?	I’m not familiar with this one.	I have consistently supported legislation to define marriage as between one man and one woman. I support and advocate human dignity, traditional marriage, protection of the unborn, religious liberty and freedom and free market economic policies.	Not yet. I will when I receive it.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

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11. Do you believe immigration should be based on merit or a lottery system?	Merit based only.	<p>Merit. I have consistently maintained there is a real need for a rational immigration policy built on several important principles. I have weighed past immigration reform legislation against these principles, and have voted against immigration reform efforts that do not meet them. I continue to use them as a guide for consideration of current immigration reform proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, the United States must commit the resources necessary to have the <u>strongest border enforcement</u> realistically possible. Preservation of the integrity of our borders is essential to immigration policy as well as our national security. • Second, our immigration system <u>must not grant amnesty</u> to those who enter our country illegally or illegally overstay their visas. No person who breaks the law should obtain any benefit toward either permanent legal residency or citizenship as a result of their illegal conduct. This is unfair both to American citizens and to those who have gone through legal channels for immigration to the U.S. • Third, <u>non-citizens must not be afforded the means-tested, federal benefits</u> available to U.S. citizens. Federal public benefit programs exist as a manifestation of the American aspiration to take care of our own less fortunate. In today's fiscal climate, the solvency of these programs is ill-fated at best, making it nothing less than irresponsible to exacerbate these programs' financial constrains by extending eligibility to individuals who are not U.S. citizens. • Fourth, our immigration system must assure that <u>American citizens have the first right to access available jobs.</u> • Fifth, an efficient and <u>workable guest worker program</u> must be developed that will provide employers with a reliable, verifiable and legal system to identify qualified guest workers who are legally in the county. <p>I will continue to press for a solid solution that will secure our nation's borders, not provide incentives for further illegal immigration through rewarding illegal entry, and implement sound, sensible immigration policy based merit and on the rule of law.</p>	Merit.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
12. Do you interpret the Constitution as	It is <u>NOT</u> a living document at all.	Our Constitution must be honored and protected as it was written. I support judges at every level of our judicial system who interpret the law as it is written. Consequently, I will not support judges who write new law	No	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

<p>a living document?</p>		<p>from the bench or who interpret the words of the Constitution as having evolving meaning over time. Our country was the first in the history of the world to have a written, national constitution that was ratified by its people and is binding on the government. It set the U.S. apart from all other nations, and placed us in a leadership role regarding democracy and governance “of the people, by the people and for the people”. Abraham Lincoln spoke those words, and he understood what our Founding Fathers had in mind – that the Constitution set forth enduring ideals, ideals which have stood the test of time. The Constitution itself provides for a process of constitutional amendments. The first amendments to this sacred document were the Bill of Rights that were ratified at the same time as the Constitution itself. There is a process for amending the Constitution when the citizens of the United States of America believe it should be amended, but that process is by design difficult and onerous and requires an extraordinary amount of agreement among the people. The fact that it is difficult to amend the Constitution (only 27 amendments in over 200 years) is a testament to the foresight and insight of our Founders.</p>			
<p>13. In recent years some groups have advocated for legalizing marijuana in our state, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Absolutely. <u>NOT</u>.</p>	<p>I have consistently and will continue to oppose the legalization of marijuana and have long expressed my concerns with the legalization of marijuana.</p>	<p>I oppose it, because it is the first step to drug addiction.</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>	<p>Declined to Respond</p>

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14. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children, for example School choice?	I support school choice.	I support school choice. Furthermore, states, not the federal government, should control education policy. Educating our children is one of the most important issues facing our country today. Supporting states' rights and advocating flexibility for parents is one way to ensure that Idaho's children receive the best education. Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently worked to preserve decision-making authority for states, local counties and parents. All children should have access to a quality education, whether they attend a public, private or charter school.	I support freedom of choice, such as charter schools, private schooling, and home schooling	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond
15. The 10th amendment states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. What does this mean to you?	States rights take priority over Federal government.	In composing the Constitution, our Founding Fathers were scrupulous in their efforts to craft a system of government that would balance federal power and individual states' rights. To prevent the concentration of power in the federal government, the Founders included the Tenth Amendment, which states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." In this way, the Founders intended for the national government to respect the individual states that comprise it. That means our Constitution set up limited government to prevent intrusive federal policies that interfere in state authority, stifle local ingenuity and experimentation, and impose overbearing, one-size-fits-all regulations that fail to consider states' unique needs. Congress has a responsibility to exercise strong oversight to ensure our branches of government exercise their authority in a manner consistent with the Constitution. I remain committed to challenging unwarranted and overreaching federal policies and to restoring public and congressional oversight of the federal rulemaking process.	The Government will have a limited amount of power to arrest you.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond

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16. What is your background and why do you believe it qualifies you for this position?	I has been in financial services for 30 years including owning my own firm – I have a wide variety of experience.	<p>I am a fourth-generation Idahoan, born and raised in Idaho Falls. I was educated in the public school system in Bonneville County. I practiced law in Idaho Falls for a number of years (with a short-one-year stint in San Diego), and chose to remain in Idaho to raise my family. My wife Susan and I have been married for nearly 48 years. We have five adult children and fifteen grandchildren. I have called Idaho home all of my life.</p> <p>I have served as an elected volunteer Republican at the local level and in public office at the state and federal levels. From 1984 to 1992, I was an Idaho State Senator, elected to represent Bonneville County. During my State Senate tenure, I was elected by my fellow Republican Senators to serve as the Assistant Majority Leader (1986-1988) and then as Senate President Pro Tempore (1989-1992). In 1992, I was elected to Congress to serve as the U.S. Representative from Idaho’s 2nd District. I served three terms/six years in the U.S. House. In 1998, I was elected to serve as a U.S. Senator from Idaho, where I currently continue to serve. My voting record has consistently been conservative, supporting efforts to promote freedom and liberty as intended by the Constitution and to reduce the size and scope of the federal government, including taxation, government mandates and overreach into state and local efforts.</p> <p>I have a very strong record of accomplishment in terms of both stopping bad policies and implementing good ones. If re-elected and Republicans take back the Senate, I will have the opportunity to serve as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is one of the most—if not, the most—powerful committees in the U.S. Senate, having jurisdiction over the entire income and revenue side of the federal government as well as health care and entitlement programs and U.S. trade.</p>	I have watched for over 50 years on how the Government powers have grown. I have a small business for many years and had accounting instruct.	Declined to Respond	Declined to Respond